

Deep River

THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN THEOLOGIAN HOWARD THURMAN FOUND "Deep River," with its image of life as a river, to be the most universal of all the spirituals. And the white literary critic H. L. Mencken said the unknown slave author of "Deep River" "was one of the greatest poets we have ever produced." The "campground" in the song refers to both Heaven and the free land of the North. One ex-slave told a Quaker abolitionist that for many slaves the image meant returning to Africa.

Deep . . ri - ver, My home is o - ver Jor - dan,
Deep ri - ver, Lord, I
want to cross o - ver in - to camp ground, Lord, I
want to cross o - ver in - to camp ground, Lord, I
want to cross o - ver in - to camp ground, Lord, I

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps, and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "Deep . . ri - ver, My home is o - ver Jor - dan,". The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: "Deep ri - ver, Lord, I". The third staff features a more rhythmic accompaniment with the lyrics: "want to cross o - ver in - to camp ground, Lord, I". The fourth and fifth staves continue this rhythmic pattern with the lyrics: "want to cross o - ver in - to camp ground, Lord, I". Dynamic markings include a forte (f) marking above the second staff and piano (pp) markings above the third, fourth, and fifth staves.

FINE.

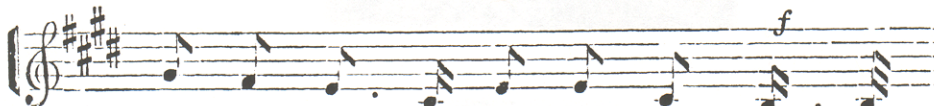


want to cross o - ver in - to camp ground.



1. Oh, don't you want to go to that Gos - pel-feast, That
2. I'll go in - to hea - ven, and take my seat,
3. Oh, when I get to heav'n, I'll walk all a - bout. There's

f



1. pro - mis'd land where all is peace? Lord, I
2. Cast my crown at Je - sus' feet. Lord, I
3. nobody there for to turn me out. Lord, I

pp



want to cross o - ver in - to camp ground, Lord, I

f



want to cross o - ver in - to camp ground, Lord, I

pp



want to cross o - ver in - to camp ground, Lord, I

D.C.



want to cross o - ver in - to camp ground.